

**REMARKS**

By this Amendment, claims 1-22 are pending.

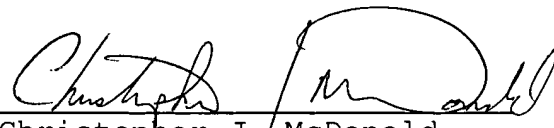
The Examiner rejected claims 5, 7, 8 and 10 as they should depend from claims 2 or 3, not claim 1. The Examiner indicated that claims 2, 5-13 and 19 contained allowable subject matter and claims 3 and 4 were allowed. By this Amendment, claims 5-8, 10-13 and 19 have been amended so that they depend from claim 3. In addition, claims 14-18 and 20-22 have been amended to depend from claim 2.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 14-18, 20, 21 and 22 as being anticipated by Ibatici. As mentioned previously, claims 14-18 and 20-22 have been amended to depend from claim 3, indicated as being allowable.

Claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form and claim 1 has been amended. Specifically, claim 1 now recites that the valve has a valve seat and tappet, an electrical actuating device applying force to the tappet to press the tappet against the valve seat. When pressure exceeds the force applied by the actuating device, the valve will open. The force at which the valve opens is therefore adjustable by adjusting the actuating device. This subject matter is disclosed in the specification beginning at page 6, line 16.

The claims are allowable over the prior art and favorable action is eagerly and earnestly solicited. If any fees are due and owing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 08-2455.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Christopher J. McDonald  
Reg. No. 41,533

August 19, 2005

HOFFMAN, WASSON & GITLER, PC  
2461 South Clark Street  
Crystal Center 2, Suite 522  
Arlington, VA 22202  
(703) 415-0100